

CLAIMS

1. An adhesive bandage for protection of areas on the skin, the bandage comprising:
 - a substrate having a perimeter, a first surface and a second surface on an opposite side of the first surface, the second surface of the substrate having a low coefficient of friction;
 - a protective layer disposed on the first surface of the substrate;
 - a layer of a pressure-sensitive adhesive disposed on the first surface of the substrate and surrounding at least a portion of the protective layer; and
 - a sheet of material that is attached to the substrate at attachment locations adjacent the perimeter of the substrate, the sheet of material having a lower surface having a low coefficient of friction, the lower surface of the sheet confronting the second surface of the substrate and being constructed and located to move with respect to the second surface of the substrate in a direction generally parallel to the substrate.
2. The bandage as recited in claim 1, wherein the substrate is generally rectangular in shape, and wherein the sheet of material is attached to the substrate only at corners of the substrate.
3. The bandage as recited in claim 1, wherein the sheet of material includes cutouts disposed between the attachment locations.
4. The bandage as recited in claim 1, wherein the layer of adhesive extends to points spaced from the perimeter of the substrate at selected edges to provide extensions of the substrate adjacent the perimeter of the substrate which are free of adhesive.
5. The bandage as recited in claim 4, wherein the extensions are disposed around the entire perimeter of the substrate.

6. The bandage as recited in claim 4, wherein the extensions are disposed on opposite sides of the protective layer.

7. The bandage as recited in claim 4, wherein the extensions are flexible, thereby allowing a greater range of movement of the sheet of material with respect to the substrate.

8. The bandage as recited in claim 1, wherein the attachment locations are substantially continuous adjacent the entire perimeter of the substrate.

9. The bandage as recited in claim 1, wherein the attachment locations are spaced from one another.

10. The bandage as recited in claim 1, wherein the second surface of the substrate and the lower surface of the sheet of material both have a static coefficient of friction of about 1.0 or less.

11. The bandage as recited in claim 10, wherein the static coefficient of friction is about 0.7 or less.

12. The bandage as recited in claim 11, wherein the static coefficient of friction is in the range of about 0.2 to about 0.7.

13. The bandage as recited in claim 1, wherein the static coefficient of friction of the second surface of the substrate and the lower surface of the sheet of material is less than the static coefficient of friction of the area of skin being protected.

14. A bandage for the skin comprising:
a first layer having an outer perimeter, a first, low-friction surface, and
a second surface;

an adhesive layer disposed on the second surface of the first layer, the adhesive layer extending to an adhesive edge which is spaced inwardly of the outer perimeter of the first layer at selected locations;

a second layer of low-friction material disposed adjacent the first surface of the first layer and being attached to the first layer at selected locations spaced from the adhesive edge toward the outer perimeter of the first layer.

15. The bandage as recited in claim 14, wherein the first and second layers are generally rectangular in shape, and wherein the second layer is attached to the first layer substantially at corners thereof.

16. The bandage as recited in claim 15, wherein the second layer of material includes cutouts between the corners of the first layer.

17. The bandage as recited in claim 14, wherein the second layer of material is affixed around its entire peripheral edge to the first layer.

18. The bandage as recited in claim 14, further comprising a protective layer which is substantially centrally disposed on the second surface of the first layer, and which is substantially surrounded by the layer of adhesive.

19. The bandage as recited in claim 14, wherein said first layer is heat-welded to the second layer.

20. The bandage as recited in claim 14, wherein the second layer and the first layer are integrally formed as a single sheet, and wherein the selected locations of attachment are formed as a crease in the single sheet.

21. A method for treating a blister comprising:

placing a bandage over a blister such that the blister is covered by a protective layer disposed on one side of the bandage;

adhesively securing the bandage to the skin using a layer of pressure-sensitive adhesive on the one side of the bandage that surrounds but does not touch the blister; and

affixing a sheet of low-friction material adjacent another side of the bandage, the sheet of low-friction material being constructed to be positioned between the bandage and items of clothing, the sheet of low-friction material being movable with respect to the bandage to minimize the transfer of any friction forces from items of clothing to the blister.

22. A method for protecting an area of the skin from chaffing or from the formation of blisters, the method comprising:

placing a protective layer of a bandage against the area of skin that is to be protected;

adhesively securing the bandage to the skin using a layer of pressure-sensitive adhesive that surrounds but does not touch the area of skin to be protected;

placing a low-friction surface on a side of the bandage opposite the protective layer; and

adhering a layer of low-friction material to the bandage between the low-friction surface on the bandage and items of clothing, the layer of low-friction material being movable with respect to the low-friction surface on the bandage to minimize the transfer of any frictional forces from clothing to the area of skin to be protected.

23. A bandage for the skin comprising:

a first layer formed of a low-friction material, the first layer having an upper surface and a lower surface;

a protective layer disposed on the lower surface of the first layer;

a layer of adhesive surrounding the protective layer on the lower surface of the first layer; and

a second layer of a low-friction material being disposed adjacent and attached to the upper surface of the first layer in such a manner that the second layer moves with respect to the upper surface of the first layer in a direction generally parallel to the upper surface of the first layer in response to forces applied to the second layer.

24. The bandage as recited in claim 23, wherein the second layer is only attached to the upper surface of the first layer at selected locations.

25. The bandage as recited in claim 24, wherein the second layer is attached at corners of the first layer.

26. The bandage as recited in claim 23, wherein the adhesive layer on the lower surface of the first layer extends to an adhesive edge that is spaced from an outer edge of the first layer.

27. The bandage as recited in claim 26, wherein the second layer is attached to the first layer only at locations spaced from the adhesive edge toward the outer edge of the first layer.